Vacancies of Judges in Madhya Pradesh High Court

1393. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies of Judges have not been filled so far in the Madhya Pradesh High Court;

(b) by when they are likely to be filled up;

(c) for how long have these vacancies existed; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) As on 5-3-87, one post of an Additional Judge was vacant in the Madhya Pradesh High Court. This vacancy arose on 27-10-86.

The matter regarding filling up of the existing vacancy is engaging the attention of the Government. It is not possible to indicate the date by when it will be filled up.

Loans by Rural Electrification Corporation

1394. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the profits of the Rural Electrification Corporation are increasing every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this Corporation takes loans from various Corporations at low rate of interest but gives loan to the States on high rate of interest; and

(c) if so, whether Government could advise the corporation to advance these loans to the backward States like Madhya Pradesh at low rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) Funds are made available to the Rural Electrification Corporation by way of loans from Central Government, market, brrowings etc., for disbursement as loans to State Electricity Boards. The Corporation is permitted to charge only marginally higher interest rates from the State Electricity Boards vis-a-vis the interest rates it has to pay to the Central Government etc. The profits, which have increased over the years, from the internal resources of the Corporation, and are reinvested in the Rural Electrification Programmes in the country.

The Rural Electrification Corporation charges the same rate of interest from all the Electricity Boards on the loans advanced for the REC Financed Schemes. However, these rates of interest are different for different categories of schemes and are lower for the MNP Schemes, specially under-developed areas including hilly and tribal areas and Harijan Bastis etc.

Indira Sarovar Hydel Project

1395. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 87 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the 'Indira Sarovar' (Bodh Ghat) hydel projects and Narbada Sagar have since been cleared in terms of Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) whether it is a fact that if these projects are not cleared, Madhya Pradesh will become highly deficit in power by the year 1990-91; and

(c) whether the Central Government consider sanctioning a few thermal power projects till these projects are cleared by the forest department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) If these projects are not implemented, Madhya Pradesh is expected to be deficit during the Eighth Plan period.

(c) Alternatives to these projects are not presently being considered.

Cost of replacement of Accessories

1396. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual average cost of replacement of worn-out, burnt or damaged transformers, switch-gears and transmission lines in each State and Union Territory, rendered as unserviceable mainly due to over-loading and negligence in maintennance; and

(b) what percentage of the annual expenditure will this cost in each unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil Exploration in Gujarat

1397. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of places have recently been identified for off-shore and on-shore oil exploration in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the places identified for off-shore and on-shore exploration in the States; and

(c) what are the results of the preliminary drilling in these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During April-December 1986, ONGC have undertaken exploratory drilling at 30 locations onland and 6 locations in the offshore on the following prospects:

Onshore: Gandhar, Dabka, Dahej, Wareli, Kathana, Sanand, Mahuda, Balol, Lanwa, West Sobhasan, North Kadi, Unawa, Jotana, Sobhasan, Linch, Suthri and Nawagam.

Offshore: Daman and Kutch-Saurashtra.

(c) Of the 30 wells drilled onland, 16 proved to be oil bearing and 4 gas bearing. In the 6 offshore wells oil was discovered in 2 wells in Daman area.

Setting up of 90 MTPD Hydrogen Plant for Gujarat Refinery

1398. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders were invited by the Indian Oil Corporation for receipt of bids to set up a 90 MTPD hydrogen Plant for the Gujarat Refinery if Indian Oil Corporation as a part of a distillate hydrocracker plant;

(b) what are the results thereof; and

(c) by when the Plant is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Offers have been received from six parties and are being evaluated.

(c) The Plant is expected to be commissioned in 1991-92.